



October 2, 2025

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Republican Co-Chair  
Senate National Guard Caucus  
211 Russel Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Democratic Co-Chair  
Senate National Guard Caucus  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Graham and Senator Shaheen,

On behalf of the members represented by our respective organizations and the over 1 million members of the Reserve Component, we ask you to swiftly introduce and pass a Senate companion to the Pay Our Troops Act of 2026, H.R.5401.

Our country relies upon the National Guard and Reserve to protect the homeland and provide domestic response at a moment's notice. As you know, a government shutdown significantly disrupts that mission. Cancelled drill weekends and training degrades readiness. Asking servicemembers to report for duty with no pay degrades morale and creates undue hardship on military families.

The Pay Our Troops Act funds all members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees until regular appropriations are passed into law, or through January 1, 2027. Earlier this year, Senator Sullivan introduced S.876 that provided for this contingency under the threat of a shutdown for FY2025. This is a request to do so for the current FY2026 shutdown. Please see attached draft companion language to H.R. 5401 to expedite introduction and passage.

We appreciate your consideration as we work together to ensure our Armed Forces and Department of Department civilians receive the proper pay to carry out their vital role in our national security. Thank you for your continued support of the National Guard and Reserve.

Sincerely,

Francis M. McGinn  
Major General (Ret.), U.S. Army  
President  
National Guard Association of the United States

Francis J. Evon  
Major General, U.S. Army  
President  
Adjutant General Association of the United States

John B. Hashem  
Major General (Ret.), U.S. Army  
Executive Director  
Reserve Organization of America

John Gipe  
Command Sergeant Major (Ret.), U.S. Army  
Executive Director  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S.